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Senator Slams CIA for Wanting 'to Kick U.S. Employees Around'

By Press-Chicago Daily News Wire

WASHINGTON—Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr., red-faced and furious about backstage lobbying by the Central Intelligence Agency, has denounced the spy organization for wanting to "stand above the law."

"They want the unmitigated right to kick federal employees around (and) deny them the basic rights which belong to every American," declared the angry North Carolina Democrat yesterday.

Ervin's remarks on the Senate floor amounted to one of the sharpest and bitterest congressional attacks on the super-secret intelligence agency since its formation in 1947.

THE DENUNCIATION may be widely felt, because Ervin is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which has jurisdiction over the CIA.

His comments came shortly after the Senate leadership, at the insistent request of CIA officials, abruptly scratched from

yesterday's Senate agenda an Ervin-sponsored bill to safeguard the rights of federal employees.

Among other things, the bill prohibits the CIA and the equally secret National Security Agency from asking employees or job applicants about their sex habits, family relations or religious beliefs as part of lie detector or psychiatric tests.

The only exception is for situations where the directors of the CIA or the NSA determine that such questioning is vital to protect national security.

LATE LAST WEEK, CIA representatives notified several senators, including James O. Eastland (D-Miss.), chairman of the Judiciary Committee, that they wanted a secret hearing for their objections to the bill. Lie detector tests are widely used by the CIA.

The Judiciary Committee reported the bill by a unanimous vote several weeks ago. Ervin has said that the CIA was invited on two occasions to testify during committee deliberations but refused.

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